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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 SY-05 USIA-06 FBIE-00 SCA-01 1037 W
082090

P 232010Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5366

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F.O. 116521-GDS
TAGS: CASC (GAIDO, JEANNETTE)
SUBJECT: W/W JEANNETTE GAIDO

✓ REF: BUENOS AIRES 2414 AND 2284, (B) STATE 0789884

1. SUBJECT TELEPHONED EMBASSY APRIL 20 INFORMING CONSULAR OFFICER SHE PLANS LEAVE CORDOBA WITHIN SEVERAL DAYS TO TAKE UP PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN BUENOS AIRES WHERE SHE WILL ENROLL IN A MEDICAL SCHOOL AND CONTINUE HER STUDIES. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE APPROPRIATE ARGENTINE POLICE AUTHORITIES IN BUENOS AIRES TO PROVIDE, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, NECESSARY PROTECTION SERVICES FOR SUBJECT.

2. SUBJECT'S FATHER, CARLOS GAIDO, PLANS DEPART FROM CORDOBA AND RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES IMMEDIATELY. ONLY SUBJECT'S BROTHER, HUGO GAIDO WISHES REMAIN IN CORDOBA WHERE HIS ARGENTINE FIANCEE RESIDES AND WILL CONTINUE HIS STUDIES IN THIS CITY. AS HE WAS NOT PERSONALLY THREATENED, HE BELIEVES AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO REAL DANGER FOR HIM IN REMAINING IN CORDOBA.

3. MR. CARLOS GAIDO PERSONALLY VISITED EMBASSY ON APRIL 16 TO SPEAK TO EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER AND CONSULAR OFFICER. DURING THIS DISCUSSION MR. GAIDO STATED THAT HE IS WORRIED AND UPSET ABOUT EXTORTION THREAT AND REALIZES EXTREME CARE AND PRUDENCE MUST BE EXERCISED IN THIS MATTER. AS HIS DAUGHTER WISHES TO BE A MEDICAL DOCTOR, SHE WOULD PREFER TO CONTINUE HER STUDIES

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IN ARGENTINA AS TUITION COSTS ARE MUCH LOWER HERE THAN IN U.S. ALSO IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME TO ENROLL IN A US MEDICAL SCHOOL WITH ASSURANCES SHE WOULD BE ACCEPTED FOR CURRENT SEMESTER.

4. DURING MEETING AT EMBASSY, MR. GAIDO QUERIED WHETHER HE HAD ANY SUSPICIONS, OR COULD NAME ANY PERSON OR PERSONS WHO MIGHT HAVE MADE EXTORTION ATTEMPT ON SUBJECT'S LIFE. MR. GAIDO SAID HE HAS NO REAL PROOF NOR CAN HE BE SURE OF HIS SUSPICIONS, BUT HE FELT IT WAS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT HIS DAUGHTER WAS FRIENDLY WITH A YOUNG MAN NAMED CARLOS FENOSI, AN ARGENTINE CITIZEN, APPROXIMATELY 24-25 YEARS OF AGE, EMPLOYED AS TELEVISION ELECTRONIC ENGINEER AT CORDOBA TV STATION CHANNEL 8 IN WHICH IT IS ALLEGED HIS FATHER IS PART-OWNER AS WELL AS A FORMER RETIRED ARGENTINE AIR FORCE OFFICER. FENOSI WAS THE SAME PERSON IN APRIL 1975 WHO GAVE SUBJECT A LETTER FOR MAILING IN USA ADDRESSED TO USA OFFICER ALFRED LAUN. FENOSI ALSO KNEW SUBJECT'S MOTHER HAD PENDING INSURANCE CLAIM BASED ON BUS ACCIDENT IN NEW YORK CITY AND WAS EXPECTING RATHER LARGE FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT FROM BUS COMPANY IN NEAR FUTURE. WHILE SUBJECT NEVER DISCUSSED THREATENING PHONE CALLS WITH ANY PERSON IN CORDOBA OUTSIDE HER IMMEDIATE FAMILY, FENOSI WAS STATED BY MR. GAIDO TO HAVE PHONED SUBJECT AT HER HOME IN CORDOBA (AFTER SUBJECT'S MOTHER RECEIVED THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS AND ALREADY LEFT FOR USA) AND POSED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO SUBJECT: "WHERE HER MOTHER WAS? IN THE UNITED STATES, IS THAT NOT CORRECT; IF I (FENOSI) WOULD HAVE KNOWN, I WOULD HAVE GIVEN HER A LETTER TO MAIL FOR ME IN THE UNITED STATES FOR LAUN..."

(INTERESTING TO MR. GAIDO WAS FACT THAT FENOSI SOMEHOW KNEW MRS. GAIDO HAD DEPARTED FOR THE USA AND WAS STILL TRYING TO SEND MESSAGES TO LAUN IN UNITED STATES THROUGH OTHER PERSONS RATHER THAN REGULAR ARGENTINE MAIL FACILITIES).

5. WHILE MR. GAIDO DOES NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY FENOSI MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN EXTORTION ATTEMPT, HE SPECULATED FENOSI NOT STRONG-WILLED NOR COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO PLAN OR HANDLE ON HIS OWN THIS TYPE OF EXTORTION THREAT. HE WOULD NECESSARILY REQUIRE HELP, AND AT THIS POINT IN DISCUSSION MR. GAIDO MENTIONED A GOOD FRIEND OF FENOSI, NAMED "RICHARD" (LAST NAME

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NOT KNOWN TO MR. GAIDO WHO IS DESCRIBED AS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA, AN INTELLIGENT PERSON, SPENDTHRIFT WHO "LIKES GOOD THINGS IN LIFE". "RICHARD" WAS ALSO ACQUAINTED WITH SUBJECT AND VISITED HER AT HER HOME WHERE MR. GAIDO MET HIM. IT WAS "RICHARD" WHO ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED FENOSI TO SUBJECT. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE GIVEN ABOUT "RICHARD" BY MR. GAIDO. WHEN SUBJECT ARRIVES IN BUENOS AIRES WE WILL QUESTION HER ABOUT THIS YOUNG MAN.

6. CONSULAR NIV FILES AT EMBASSY REFLECT THAT RICARDO CARLOS FENOSI, DBOB AUGUST 21, 1950 IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE PASSPORT NO. 9.350.694 ISSUED AUGUST 5, 1974, RESIDING SALTA 78, ARGUELLA, CORDOBA, HOME PHONE NO. 91-0228, WAS ISSUED B-2 TOURIST VISA WITH 4 YEAR VALIDITY ON NOVEMBER 14, 1974 BASED UPON PERSONAL LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION OF USIA OFFICER AL LAUN. MR. LAUN WROTE IN HIS LETTER, UNDATED BUT WRITTEN PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1974, THE FOLLOWING:
"...THE BEARER OF THIS NOTE IS ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS IN CORDOBA, ONE OF THOSE WHO SET UP A ROUND-THE-CLOCK VIGIL AT MY BEDSIDE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR AS LONG AS I WAS IN CORDOBA AFTER IT HAPPENED. HIS NAME IS CARLOS FENOSI AND HE IS EMPLOYED BY CHANNEL 8 IN CORDOBA AS A TRANSMITTER PLAN TECHNICIAN. I HAVE INVITED HIM TO VISIT ME DURING HIS SUMMER VACATION AND I WILL THEREFORE GUARANTEE THAT I WILL GET HIM BACK ON A PLANE TO ARGENTINA BEFORE HIS VISA EXPIRES. HE IS PLANNING TO VISIT IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY, BUT I AM OBTAINING A U.S. HAM RADIO OPERATING PERMIT FOR HIM WHILE HE IS HERE. SINCE THIS PROCESS REQUIRES A COUPLE OF MONTHS TO COMPLETE AND HE NEEDS A VISA NUMBER IN ADVANCE FOR THE APPLICATION, I WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD ISSUE HIM A VISA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SIGNED: AL LAUN".

7. IN VIEW OF SUSPICIONS OF MR. GAIDO, ALTHOUGH UNSUBSTANTIATED, THAT FENOSI AND "RICHARD" COULD BE IN SOME WAY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BE INVOLVED IN EXTORTION THREAT, COUPLED WITH COINCIDENTAL FACT THAT USIA OFFICER AL LAUN (AN ACTUAL KIDNAP VICTIM HIMSELF) IS A GOOD PERSONAL FRIEND OF FENOSI WHO IS ALSO AN ACQUAINTANCE OF SUBJECT, IT IS DEEMED INTERESTING AND WORTHWHILE BY EMBASSY OFFICERS TO FURTHER CHECK THIS CASE WITH OUR RELIABLE CONTACTS IN

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ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE IN BUENOS AIRES AND CORDOBA.

8. AS SOON AS INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED BY ARGENTINE
FEDERAL POLICE IN BUENOS AIRES AND CORDOBA, DEPARTMENT
WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.
HILL

10/27/66

7/20

Robert Kennedy

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Memo to: IIA: John Corr

From: Al Laun IPS/CT

Subj: Fenosi case

Ref: Buenos Aires 8437.

In view of the message in question, I feel that certain clarifications ought to be made. First and foremost, I would be very surprised if Carlos Fenosi was in any way involved in this extortion attempt, except as the innocent transmitter of a letter to me using the Guido girl as a courier.

The letter in question had to do with Fenosi's possible interest in enrolling at the University of Maryland, in case his own university, the Nacional of Cordoba, could not re-open (in the early part of 1975) because of expected difficulties. (As it turned out, the anticipated difficulties did not arise, and he was able to continue at the Nacional). For one who has not lived in the interior of Argentina, or has APO mail service at his beck and call, as the writer of the cable does, it is not possible to appreciate the routine tampering with the mail that routinely went on in the Cordoba post office, at least until the takeover by the latest government. I myself estimate that I lost 30% or more of my correspondence during the time I was in Cordoba. Given the circumstances it has been a matter of course for anyone to use a courier for documents that were very important to the sender. It is done all the time by Argentines travelling between here and there. Even when registered mail with return receipt requested was used, the mail was opened and read for any useful personal information, on occasion, before it was forwarded to the sendee.

In addition to being a student at the Nacional, Fenosi is a transmitter operator at Channel 8 in Cordoba, a position which requires an Argentine government security clearance because broadcast transmitters are frequently among the first targets of revolutionaries when they attempt to take over any facility. His father, besides being a former Chief of the Cordoba airport, is the former Chief of the Argentine Air Force Intelligence Service. While I find it unusual that anyone would have learned who was going to be the courier, if he mentioned it to her over the telephone it was common knowledge that phone company employees frequently monitored phone calls on a random basis, particularly long-distance calls to the States. In short, while this fellow "Richard" at the University may or may not be a valid suspect, I would be very surprised if Fenosi were to be involved in such an effort in any way.

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11-01-2012

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